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READERS' VIEWPOINT:

We Had Initiative; Why Not Keep It?

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EDITOR, THE UNION:
I cannot keep from wondering how Fidel Castro feels about this whole mess entitled "The Cuban Crisis." In recent months Castro has been left quaking under the shadow of the huge "gringo" threat and now is probably laughing to himself because of the administration's biggest blunder since the abortive invasion attempt two years ago.

After Castro took over the island country, Russia steadily poured supplies into Cuba. Where was the CIA? Exiles reported that military installations were springing up all over the island. In these reports was evidence given of missiles capable of hitting American targets. The Kennedy Administration said no. Finally, months after the original reports came in, the government took action.

The United States, for one of its few times since the cold war began, took the initiative. To this I say:

"great." In his speech, President Kennedy listed what we planned to accomplish in establishing a blockade. The primary reason was to get "offensive weapons" out of Cuba. To do this he insisted upon on-site inspection. Weeks later we lifted the blockade. Why? Did we have on-site inspection in Cuba? No. Why then did we lift the blockade? The answer, Russia gave us assurances that offensive weapons were out of Cuba.

Recently, claims have been growing as to the number of Russian troops and weapons in Cuba. Why are we not sure what conditions really exist? Because we based our faith on the word of proven liars and aerial reconnaissance.

American peace is again endangered. We have proved that we can take the initiative, why not take it again?

DONALD COLEY
Point Loma High Student
4254 Del Monte Ave